



Policy and Procedures for Tree Preservation

Effective Date: May 6, 2014

Purpose: To clearly state expectations for working around trees in the public right of way (ROW).

Street trees planted along city boulevards help define the public right-of-way (ROW) and are valuable community assets that return significant benefits to the residents of Saint Paul. Work performed within the drip line of a tree's canopy has the potential to cause irreparable damage to a tree through direct injury or in less visible ways through soil compaction and root damage. Taking steps to protect and preserve existing trees both above and below ground is critical to the long term health and growth of the community forest.

Requirements: The following requirements apply to City employees, contracted vendors, construction or project managers, private residents and their associated contractors regarding work near or adjacent to the ROW.

- The removal, pruning, and/or planting of trees on the public boulevard requires a permit from the City Forester (651.632.5129).
- The operation of equipment on boulevards/tree lawns shall be limited to necessary construction activities and stay as far away from tree(s) as possible, avoiding the area within the drip line of any public tree whenever possible.
- The parking of vehicles and equipment shall be on the roadbed and is not allowed on the boulevard/tree lawn without prior written approval from the City Forester. Obstruction or excavation within the ROW requires an obstruction or excavation permit. Contact the Right of Way Permit desk (651.266.6151) for said permit.
- Construction supplies, materials, or spoils shall not be stored on the boulevard/tree lawn unless approved by the City Forester. Additionally, construction supplies, materials, or spoils should not be placed within the drip line of a public tree.
- If the boulevard/tree lawn must be used for construction activities, site access routes, material storage or other related activities, protective measures shall be taken to reduce soil compaction and protect tree(s) from damage. These may include, but are not necessarily limited to: track mats, six inches of wood mulch, temporary construction fence barriers, and other methods as approved by the City Forester (651.632.5129). Boulevards or trees damaged during construction shall be restored to the satisfaction of, and at no cost to, the City.
- Damage of a public tree shall immediately be reported to the City Forester (651.632.5129).

Related Information:

Per *Chapter 176-Preservation and Protection of Trees* of the Saint Paul Code of Ordinances

"It is unlawful for any person to willfully cut, break, injure, trim, chemically damage, pierce with nails or other objects, remove or destroy any tree located, standing or growing, or which may hereafter be planted or placed upon any public place of the city." Further, "Any person who causes injury, damage or destruction to any tree located in a public place shall be subject to restitution as determined by the forestry manager. Appropriate restitution shall be computed according to the tree replacement cost formula authorized by the International Society of Arboriculture."

Saint Paul Parks and Recreation-Physical Resources Management Public Policy Dep 4.7P. Effective Date 5.6.2014
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